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"LET'S TALK"

GDR Offer to West German Government

The State Council of the German Democratic Republic has appealed to the West German Government to agree to negotiations on a peace settlement with Germany and the question of reunification.

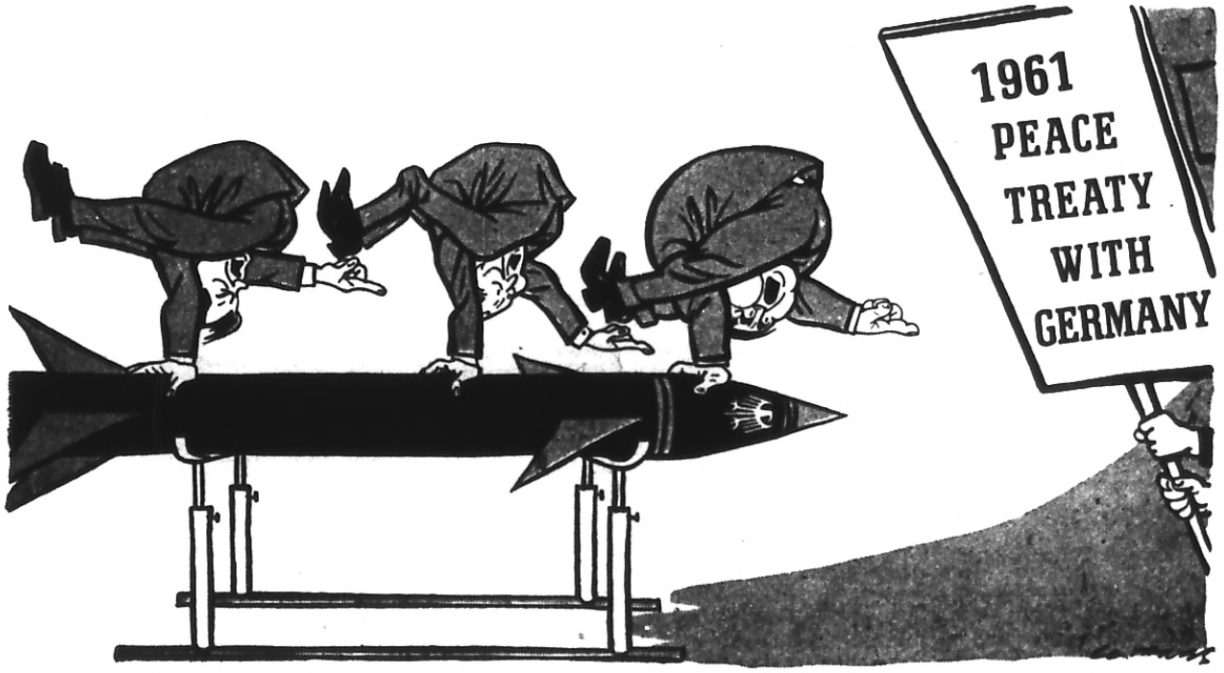
On June 28th, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, sent the following telegram to the West German Parliament and the West German Government:

"The State Council of the German Democratic Republic, moved by its concern for the future of the German nation, and determined to make a contribution to peace in Germany and Europe and thereby to German reunification, appeals to the Bundestag and the Government of the German Federal Republic to agree without delay to the opening of negotiations between the representatives of the two German states on a peace settlement with Germany and questions of reunification.

"This historic chance for the German nation must be taken. The Soviet Union has proposed that the Four Powers should declare that they will accept any agreement on a peace settlement and questions of reunification concluded by the Germans themselves. By taking such a step we could guarantee that the peace treaty, which would also solve the question of West Berlin, would accord with the national interests of the German people.

"The State Council of the German Democratic Republic appeals to the Bundestag and the Government of the German Federal Republic not lightly to cast aside a great chance for our nation; this has been done all too often in the past, to the misfortune of the German people."

Since the formation of the two German states in 1949, the German Democratic Republic has made well over 100 offers to negotiate with the West German Government on various aspects of the German problem. All such offers have either been ignored or rejected out of hand.



Brandt, Adenauer, Strauss: "How does it look to us? Like a declaration of war!"
(Cartoon by Leo Haas)

"WE SIGN THIS YEAR"

Khrushchov on German Peace Treaty

The Soviet Union is determined to sign a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic by the end of this year, Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov stated on June 21st. He was speaking at a Moscow rally commemorating the German attack on the Soviet Union in 1941.

Here are some of the most important passages from Khrushchov's statement:

"At the end of the war the peoples of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition hoped and believed that Germany would never again become a centre of militarism and aggress.on. What has happened in the meantime? West Germany has become an important member of the aggressive NATO military block. Nazi generals command not only the Bundeswehr, but also hold key posts in NATO and command British and French soldiers whose fathers fought and died in the battles against Hitler's fascists. In France and Britain, with the agreement of the governments of these countries, West German troops are drilled and trained for new campaigns. The militarists of the German Federal Republic have already received rocket weapons, and are now pressing for atomic weapons.

"At the recent meeting in Vienna with President Kennedy we proposed that a peace treaty with Germany should be signed, sealing the position which has been established after the Second World War.

"The proposals made by the Soviet Union have been received with great interest in all countries. All those interested in the maintenance of peace have greeted our proposals for the peaceful solution of the German problem.

"The ruling circles of the western powers, however, oppose the conclusion of a peace treaty, and wish to use the German problem for a trial of strength. I should like to warn those people who, like Chancellor Adenauer, reply to the peace proposals of the Soviet Union with appeals to 'remain hard'.

"We have repeatedly appealed to the leaders of the German Federal Republic to be reasonable. Do they wish to repeat the actions of their predecessor? They can try, of course, but this would be the beginning of the end for them. Today the fate of Hitler would come not only to the German revanchists, but also to all those who tried to support them.

"My words should not be regarded as a threat. They are an appeal to reason ...

"The people of the Soviet Union do not want war, and it is precisely for this reason that we are trying to remove the reason for war. That is why we, together with other peace-loving states, will sign a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic at the end of this year.

"To make peace stable it is necessary to sign a peace treaty and thus do away with the remnants of the Second World War. The Soviet Union would like to sign the peace treaty with Germany in company with our former allies.

"When we call for the conclusion of a peace treaty, this does not mean that we threaten in any way West Berlin, as these circles interested in maintaining international tension clamour. We should like to reach an honest agreement on this question with those countries with which we fought jointly against Hitlerite Germany, and with which we entered into joint obligations regarding Germany.

"We propose that West Berlin should have the status of a Free City. We do not intend to interfere in any way in the social or political order of West Berlin: these are internal questions for the West Berlin population. Neither the Soviet Union nor the German Democratic Republic wish to limit the communications between west Berlin and all countries of the world. However, the sovereign rights of the German Democratic Republic must be respected, in accordance with international law, and the communications of West Berlin with the outside world run through the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

"In the West Berlin question the USA, Britain and France represent the spirit of yesterday. Even western political leaders have to admit this. Senator Mansfield, leader of the Democratic majority in the US Senate, stated on June 14th that he could not agree with the policy of the Kennedy Government, a policy which did not recognise the enormous changes which had taken place in both parts of Germany and in Europe.

"Senator Mansfield did not deny that the best solution under present conditions was to create a Free City with international guarantees ... But then Senator Mansfield departed from the realm of realities. He demanded that the status of Free City should not be confined to West Berlin, but that it should be extended to the Democratic Sector of Berlin, which is, as is well known, an integral part of the sovereign German Democratic Republic, and is its capital.

"Why does he want to add a further complicating factor to the question of normalising the West Berlin situation, a question which is not simple in any case?

"The Soviet Union proposes that the existing factual and legal situation should be taken as the basis for the solution. Nobody demands that the present way of life of the West Berlin people should be changed. But the Soviet Union cannot be expected to agree that the territorial integrity of the German Democratic Republic should be affected, or its sovereignty reduced.

"We propose a peace treaty with Germany which should infringe in no way on the rights or the interests of any partner, and which should not give any state advantage over another. The Soviet Union only proposes that a situation which has developed over a long period and which now exists should be formally fixed. We propose that the existing frontiers of Germany should be legally signed and sealed.

"Some people say that the peace treaty which we intend to conclude with the German Democratic Republic is a 'separate treaty'. When the United States signed a peace treaty with Japan, they did not respect our interests, although we had been their ally in the war against Japan. They thus showed that they felt entitled to sign a peace treaty without our participation, although we undoubtedly had rights as one of the victor nations.

"Today we wish to make use, with regard to the German problem, of the same rights used by the USA and its friends with regard to the Japanese question. We are following the example set by the USA, that is all."

VOICES OF REASON (1)

"The Economist" Talks Sense

On June 24th the influential London weekly "The Economist" took a long clear look at the problems of Berlin and Germany. GERMAN REPORT presents on this page, in slightly condensed form, the "Economist" article, without identifying itself with all its arguments and conclusions:

... No bones should be made about the need to re-examine allied policy on Berlin. This is not simply because the crisis that will almost certainly develop over Berlin before the year's end brings the most serious danger of nuclear war the world has yet faced. The lamentable thing is that the West, if the present direction of its policy remains unchanged, looks like arriving in the teeth of this danger without having examined the routes by which it might have been able to avoid it ...

To avoid dead ends is the business of diplomacy. The immediate aim of Mr Kennedy, and of those who have his ear, should be to give the allies more room to manoeuvre — first, by letting it be known that they are willing to negotiate and, secondly, by deciding what they are (and what they are not) willing to negotiate about. At this stage in the proceedings there is little point in the onlooker's trying to spell out exactly what kind of settlement should be sought — as Senator Mansfield and Lord Montgomery, in their different ways, have recently tried to do — since it is impossible to tell how the negotiations will develop. It is in order, however, to suggest some basic points for the allied leaders to bear in mind as they consider what to do next. Three such points are of particular importance; they do not — they cannot — offer a detailed solution to the Berlin problem, but they do suggest at least the limits within which a solution should be sought.

First, it is important to distinguish between what is vital to the West's interest in Berlin and what is marginal (and therefore subject to negotiation). The one requirement on which there can be no compromise is the right of the population of west Berlin to choose how it will live, and for this it is essential to obtain guarantees on a number of matters. The Berliners must have a free choice of political systems and connections, "free" being defined in western terms; they must be able to transport goods and people in and out of the city without restrictions that endanger their liberty; and their possession of these rights must be guarded by the presence of a certain number of allied troops — not necessarily the present number, and not necessarily alone, but enough to establish Berlin's links with its western friends. Simply to list these requirements ought to show that no appeasement is in the air. Herr Ulbricht, who said last week that he wants to limit Berlin's freedom far more narrowly than this, will not find them easy to accept.

One element in the allies' position, however, has far less claim to be regarded as immutable. This is their reluctance to let the east Germans join in the arrangements over Berlin. If the guarantees that protect the freedom of Berlin are solid ones, how they are arrived at and through whom they are put into practice is considerably less important. It is best to be frank about the implications of this. If the east German government became one of the signatories of a treaty fixing the rights of Berlin, and if the allies agreed to deal with east German officials in using their lines of communication with the city, a considerable step would have been taken towards the recognition of Herr Ulbricht's regime. The claim that the allies are in Berlin by virtue of their rights as victors in 1945 would in effect have been abandoned; so would the claim that the west German government is the only legal representative of the German people. But the passing of time, and the abrasive action of hard reality, have already worn these beliefs thin. The question is whether it is better to preserve such claims, or, abandoning them, to seek a new and surer basis for the freedom of west Berlin.

The second point for the West's leaders to bear in mind arises out of this. Those who believe that it is necessary to maintain the West's postwar occupation rights in Berlin argue that, in the last resort, nothing but a western threat to use force will save the Berliners from communist encroachment. This is true; but it is not an argument for insisting on the occupation rights as the only sound basis for the western presence in the city. The allies' readiness to go to war rather than let Berlin succumb is equally valid (and would be equally necessary) as a means of enforcing a new treaty. Indeed, this ultimate and indispensable sanction might be more convincing if a new agreement replaced the present basis of western rights; it is easier to be resolute in defence of a freshly inked document than in defence of a fifteen-year-old arrangement which one party has already denounced.

Thirdly, it must be remembered that the problem of Berlin will never quite vanish until the whole of central Europe is at peace with itself. Even if a new agreement can be negotiated, defining and safeguarding the Berliners' rights in unmistakable detail, the city will still be marooned in the territory of a hostile political system and surrounded by the troops of a hostile super-power; like a tin hat stuck on the barbed wire

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of no-man's-land, it is a perpetual temptation to the trigger-happy. For this reason, if the western powers decide to negotiate about Berlin, they must seek to include all central Europe in the discussion. Ultimately Berlin can have no secure future except in a reconciled Germany.

Perhaps this can only be achieved by ways that offend some western taboos. The aim should be to seek arrangements which, by untautening nerves in the entire region, take the tingle out of the fingers encircling Berlin. It may well be that the Berliners would be allowed to sleep more easily at night (and Germany, in the end, have a better chance of reunion) if the western powers could bring themselves to acknowledge at any rate the factual existence of east Germany and the finality of the western frontier of Poland. Eventually the conversation might ramble still farther afield; the idea of disengagement might be revived (as Lord Montgomery has suggested) and the governments of the two parts of Germany, already linked by the bonds of commerce, might bring themselves to discuss other matters as well. The direction the negotiations about central Europe might ultimately take is as uncertain as the prospect that they might result in an accommodation; but it is advisable for the traveller to know which way the path starts ...

There is a difference between last ditches and dead ends. In certain circumstances, most people agree, it is necessary to look the possibility of nuclear war unflinchingly in the eye. The danger over Berlin is that, if diplomacy gets stuck in a cul-de-sac, war might come in the wrong circumstances and for the wrong cause ... It will take a wrench of the mental muscles for the West to accept the compromises by which a way might just conceivably be found out of the difficulty. But the problem of Berlin calls for a mixture of resolution and imagination; it would be absurd to have a nuclear holocaust because imagination had not been put to work.

VOICES OF REASON (2)

The western allies should be ready to negotiate on the Berlin question, C. L. Sulzberger, chief foreign correspondent of the influential "New York Times" suggested on June 21st. In a study of the German problem he stated:

"Thanks to faulty planning, the West allowed itself to be put in an isolated position at Berlin and also allowed itself to develop this isolated position into a symbol of determination everywhere. There is little point complaining about this now; we are stuck with it.

"And because we are stuck with it we are pushed to defending a status quo which has no sensible status. The fact of the matter is that we don't want a partitioned Berlin any more than we want a partitioned Germany. But Russia blatantly opposes German reunification and both France and England are privately acquiescent.

"Thus we have staked everything on a German unification which some of our partners don't really want and which we can't have anyway until it suits Russia's book. And we have made numerous contingency plans except for the obvious contingency that when Khrushchov moves he will move with painstaking care, insuring that no valid casus belli is presented.

"We should therefore do two things swiftly. The first is to draw up a negotiating position covering not only Berlin but all aspects of Germany and obtain agreement on this from our partners. The second is then to take the initiative in starting negotiations at a time of our own choosing ...

"And we must shed the idea that no negotiation is possible, and that the status quo must be kept exactly as it is. There is never such a thing as a permanently desirable status quo and it is impossible to maintain one indefinitely in Europe when none of the rest of the world is static."

VOICES OF REASON (3)

Walter Lippmann, respected American publicist, had this to say about the West Berlin problem in the "New York Herald Tribune" of June 29th:

"Thus far both sides have been firm and cautious, vehement that they will not surrender their vital interests and careful not to close the doors to negotiations. The doors would be closed if Khrushchov declared that the Allies must evacuate West Berlin. The door would be closed if we refused to discuss West Berlin. But these doors, which are the critical ones, have not been closed ...

"It would be a wiser policy, it seems to me, to recognise the fact that for the indefinite future the two Germanys will not reunite, and to insist as a matter of positive Western policy, not as a shamefaced concession to the Soviets, our new guarantees to meet this new situation, guarantees under which West Berlin can live confidently and in freedom until the day, now so remote, when it will again be the capital of Germany.

"I am convinced that the failure by the President to take such a line will mean that he has surrendered the initiative in German affairs to Khrushchov. If there is nothing he wants to do in Germany except to do nothing, the President will have lost the power to direct and control the struggle ..."

... and a voice of hate

West German politicians and newspapers have recently stepped up their campaign of threats against the GDR. Here, from a leading article on June 24th in the "Muenchner Merkur", conservative daily published in Munich, West Germany, is a sample of the sort of reasoning widespread in West Germany today:

"We have hitherto neglected two important and feasible deterrents. They are:

"1. The Federal Republic must be supplied with a nuclear striking potential which accords with its political-strategic value in the equation of nuclear destruction ...

"The strongest deterrent for the protection of the Federal Republic is one of the most modern weapons in the broader strategy of the cold war. If Moscow wishes to risk war because of the recognition of the Soviet Zone (GDR, ed.) then it must know that the Soviet Zone is its Achilles' heel. The internal situation of the unhappy people of Middle Germany (GDR, ed.) is marked by the latent despair of the people ... In case of war this state of affairs can be increased to a state of explosion. If the west makes the necessary psychological propagandistic, organisational and subversive preparations, these factors could have catastrophic results for the Soviet Union ... The results would be sabotage of production and transport, a wave of strikes, complete passive resistance, demonstrations ... and a rising against the Soviet troops ...

"What is needed is a (West) German initiative, not simply vague demands for negotiations."

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Radio Berlin International broadcasts daily programmes with news, music and reports on all features of life in Democratic Germany. You can tune in to the English, Danish, Swedish, French or Arabic broadcasts. Here is a list of times and frequencies for those who listen in in English (in Greenwich Mean Time):

Europe 6.00– 6.30 p.m.
8.00– 8.30 p.m.
10.00–10.30 p.m.
11.00–11.30 p.m.

(Frequencies: 9730 kc = 30.83 metres; 7300 kc = 41.10 metres; 6115 kc = 49.06 metres.)

Full Pensions for SS Officers

All parties of the West German Parliament agreed on June 29th to new legislation granting greatly increased pensions to many categories of nazi officials, including specifically officers and men of the crack SS formations "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler" and the Death's Head Corps, which guarded the concentration camps.

The new legislation stated that all full-time members of these murder gangs would receive full army pensions in future if they could prove that they had served Hitler for a minimum of ten years. Other clauses of the law improved the pensions and career prospects of nazi officials who had been removed from office by the allies in 1945. The new pensions will cost West Germany about £50 million yearly.

Halle 1000 years old

Halle, an industrial city on the Saale River, celebrated its millenium on June 25th. The first written record of the city's existence stems from that date in the year 961. For many centuries, Halle was most famous for the salt production which gave it its name. Halle comes from the Celtic name for salt.

Today Halle has 280,000 inhabitants and is the centre of the GDR's chemical industry. Four huge plants, once part of the IG Farben concern but today nationally-owned, lie nearby.

Halle's most famous son was the composer George Frederick Handel. Every year it holds a popular Handel Festival, which attracts many British performers and lovers of his music as well as an array of musical experts to the city.

The city, now bursting at the seams, is transferring part of its Martin Luther University to the outskirts and building a new suburb for about 15,000 people.

FARMERS FIGHT WEATHER

Make Good Flooding Losses

Farmers throughout the GDR are putting in extra shifts these weeks to catch up with their work and bring in a good harvest despite the worst weather in living memory.

Rainfall in the past nine months has been nearly twice the average. This produced wide-spread flooding during May, and even in those parts not flooded the fields were so waterlogged that all agricultural work was many weeks delayed.

On June 23rd the Government of the GDR and the National Front made a special appeal to the farmers to catch up with the work, to save that part of the crop which could be saved, and to plant special quick-growing crops in fields where the regular crop had been lost. The appeal stated in part:

"There are times when the clock must not be allowed to govern work in the fields; when there is a fire, people do not keep on looking at their watches, and there is a fire on the agricultural front today. If we leave the fields today after an eight-hour working day, then this means that part of the harvest will be lost."

Volunteer squads of industrial workers and students went to the countryside to help, particularly in bringing in the hay harvest.

The GDR Cabinet declared frankly on June 23rd that there had been serious losses in the harvest, but that the production plan could be met if an all-out effort were made. "All farmers and agricultural workers must remember that we are not in a position to import larger quantities of foodstuffs than those already planned; our own agriculture will have to meet the needs of the population" the Cabinet announced.

Turning to the question of industrial production, the Cabinet statement said that there had been an increase in the production of consumer goods in the first five months of 1961, despite reorganisational measures which had had to be taken to ensure that West Germany could not sabotage the GDR economy by cutting off supplies. In some cases, however, there had been delays in the delivery of goods, owing to this reorganisation.

* * *

Some West German newspapers seized the opportunity of the GDR's agricultural troubles to suggest that there was a radical food shortage. The West German mass-circulation "Bild Zeitung" stated on June 29th: "East Germany is starving". It was pointed out in Berlin that such reports were completely nonsensical. There had been local shortages of fruit and vegetables, but the average consumption of such key foodstuffs as meat, fats, bread and potatoes remained as high, or higher, than it is at present in West Germany.

GDR OFFERS POLIO SERUM TO WEST GERMANY

The GDR offered an immediate shipment of 3 million units of polio serum to West Germany in a telegram sent to Chancellor Adenauer on June 29th. West Germany is facing a growing epidemic of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis); 650 persons, mostly children, have been affected, and there have already been 42 deaths this year.

In the GDR, where over 80% of the population under 40 were immunised free of charge last year, there has been no sign of an epidemic. In fact, there has only been one very light case this year — a child who had not been immunised. GDR doctors are confident that poliomyelitis has been almost completely eradicated.

The serum used in the GDR and offered to West Germany is the Sabin kind, developed in the USA but first tried out on a mass scale in the Soviet Union. Almost all socialist countries have already immunised their populations — with great success in every case.

The three million units of serum offered by the GDR would suffice to immunise all children up till 14 years of age in the worst-hit areas, especially in the Ruhr valley. Oral immunisation can be done rapidly and without great complications so that an immediate improvement could be expected.

New Ways to Build Factories

By Allen Mann

A powerful bull-dozer scooped up several yards of grass and earth in the small GDR town of Leinefelde recently, while several thousand people applauded. This was the beginning of a big new cotton spinning mill which, when completed, will produce 19,000 tons of yarn annually. The event was interesting for three main reasons.

Firstly, Leinefelde, in northern Thuringia, lies in an area which has always been very undeveloped industrially. The big new plant will mean a rapid increase in the economic and cultural growth of this out-of-the-way part of the country.

Secondly, the new factory will contribute to a stronger comsumer-goods industry in the GDR. Good quality textiles are needed badly.

Thirdly and most importantly, the Leinefelde spinning mill is an experiment in modern factory construction. It is an attempt to break away from out-dated methods and make building cheaper, easier and quicker, and more efficient new factories pleasanter to work in.

Despite many important successes in industrial construction in the GDR, progress has been hindered lately by the fact that each new factory was made according to very different designs, requiring completely different parts and often enough, different construction machinery as well. There has been very little standardisation in building industrial projects. But housing construction has proved that by using a minimum of standard parts, wherever possible large pre-fabricated sections, it is possible to speed up building schedules. It became clear that these methods were just as urgently needed in industrial construction.

As a result, the GDR Ministry for Construction laid down a number of main principles as guides for the future:

1) Wherever possible, production plants should be combined with the plants processing the needed raw materials and with those making by-products. This would mean cutting transportation time and costs.

2) "Compact" constructions should be used — that means combining production, storage space, administration and workers' facilities in a single building.

3) Buildings should be built so as to permit a wide variety of production processes and easy changes from one process to the other without rebuilding. This means especially one-storey buildings with widely-separated supporting pillars.

4) Floor transport systems (like fork-lifters or belts) should be employed instead of the big, costly overhead cranes where possible.

5) Aggregates which are not affected by weather conditions should be built outdoors without extra buildings.

6) Assembly-line construction methods should be used, employing ready-made sections, large, standardised parts made of reinforced concrete which can be mass produced.

The spinning mill in Leinefelde is the first new industrial project to be built along these lines.

When completed, the new factory will be one big rectangle measuring about 1500 × 650 feet and over 26 feet in height. The spinning hall with 100,000 bobbins, the workshops for repairs, rooms with machines for the apprenticeship programme, storage sections as well as the offices, cafeteria, locker and shower rooms and other workers' facilities will all be under one large, flat roof. This is a major departure from other factories built in the GDR up till now. A modern air-conditioning system will keep this big building warm in winter, cool in summer and will guarantee the proper humidity. A plan to cover the whole flat roof with one inch of water in summer is under discussion. Pleasant colours and bright but not glaring lighting at all times will eliminate all eye-strain, and modern machinery will cut heavy manual work to a minimum.

It will always be easy to introduce newly-developed equipment or industrial techniques without tearing down walls or other barriers, since supporting pillars in the one huge work-hall are to be about 75 feet apart, and since electric current, water, and air will be piped through the ceiling where they will be available anywhere at any time.

The compact construction method of putting everything under one roof means that virtually no noise will emanate from the factory. It can therefore be built very close to town, thus cutting travelling time. This may well have an effect on future city planning if it proves succesful.

The mass production methods used in building the spinning mill are probably the most important factor. Only eight basic parts will be needed for the main part of the job. All constructional parts are standardised and big, modern building machines can be used on the largest possible scale, almost completely eliminating manual labour. Nine months building time will be saved.

After this factory is completed, the same production capacity for making the pre-fabricated parts and in many cases exactly the same basic designs can be used to build other factories of quite a different type. Of course, this is only a beginning. The long, hard job of switching over to these more modern standardised methods in all industrial construction still lies ahead.

Mine Leaders Sentenced

Five miner leaders were sentenced to terms ranging from seven months to one year on July 1st after a month-long political trial in Dusseldorf, West Germany. The main charge against the men was that in November 1958, at the height of a severe slump in the Ruhr coal industry, they had negotiated with Prime Minister Grotewohl of the GDR on special coal sales from West Germany to the GDR. Grotewohl had offered to buy 4 million tons of surplus coal from the Ruhr area so as to save thousands of West German miners from redundancy. As a result of the negotiations arrangements were made for the sale of part of this amount to the GDR.

The indictment also was directed against contacts the mine leaders had made with miners in Belgium and France. Most of the defendants had been elected mine union officials from their pits at the time. Some of the men were members of the Communist Party before it was forbidden in 1956.

The man who prepared the case against the miners is Heinrich Laks, who was chief of political police in the town of Oberhausen where the accused worked. Just before the trial, the public found out that Laks, a Gestapo man under Hitler, has been wanted for years as a war criminal. He was arrested while trying to escape. But the trial, which he prepared by sending police spies into the trade union, was started without him.

"FREE ELECTIONS" — W. German Style

In March this year, the miners of the "Rheinbaben" coal mine in the Ruhr, West Germany, went to the polls to elect their works council, a body which has certain limited "co-determination" rights in the running of the pit.

The election was won with an overwhelming majority by an independent list of progressive miners headed by Clemens Kraienhorst, veteran Communist miner who was a local councillor until the banning of the Communist Party in West Germany in 1956. 1794 miners voted for the independent list; 244 voted for Social Democratic and Christian trade union candidates.

On June 19th the coal company sacked without notice Clemens Kraienhorst, who had been appointed chairman of the pit council, and his assistant Willi Sadowski, also a former Communist Party member, claiming that they had "disturbed the peaceful atmosphere of the pit". The company refused to reverse the sackings, even after a great majority of the miners had signed a petition calling for the reinstatement of their representatives, in whom they had full confidence, and whom they had elected regularly to represent them ever since the end of the war. Kraienhorst and Sadowski have taken legal action against the coal company under the West German Labour Law which prohibits the sacking of legally-elected works' council members.

The Rheinbaben pit is owned by the Hibernia Mining Company, one of the largest mining and chemical companies in the world. Chairman of the board of directors of Hibernia is Ludwig Westrick, State Secretary in the West German Ministry of Economy. During the Hitler period Westrick was one of Hitler's "war economy leaders" and served as Goering's special liaison man for the war industries. He was named as a war criminal on the earliest lists drawn up by the western allies.

Deputy Chairman of the board of directors is Otto Ambros, former IG Farben executive with an outstandingly bad war criminal record. He was the director of the Buna factory at Auschwitz Concentration Camp, where prisoners were worked to a standstill and then sent to the gas chambers. On April 12th 1941 Ambros wrote to IG Farben central office: "At a banquet given us by the management of Auschwitz Concentration Camp we decided on all further measures affecting the use of the really wonderful concentration camp organisation for the benefit of the Buna plant." After the war Ambros spent eight years in prison as a war criminal. He heads two large West German chemical firms in addition to his post on the Hibernia Company board of directors.

Eichmann Finally Names Globke

Dr Hans Globke, personal assistant to West German Chancellor Adenauer, hit the world headlines on June 21st and subsequent days, when Adolf Eichmann named him as one of those responsible for the mass murder of the Jews of Europe.

Eichmann was asked in the Jerusalem courtroom why his Jewish Affairs Department of the Gestapo had been greatly expanded during the war. Eichmann replied:

"This was undoubtedly the result of the initiative taken by Department I of the Ministry of the Interior under Hering and Globke in connection with their efforts to cancel German nationality for Jews and confiscate their property; this is shown by documents submitted to this court."

Commenting upon the naming of Hans Globke, the "Times" of London commented on June 22nd: "Some West German observers here regarded Eichmann's action in implicating Globke as a reprisal for the Bonn Government's refusal to demand his extradition from Israel or to finance his defence before the Jerusalem court."

The staff assignment plan for the nazi Ministry of the Interior, found in the nazi archives, shows that Dr Globke was deputy head of the following sections at the time referred to by Eichmann: Section 14 — General racial questions; Section 15 — General Jewish questions; Section 19 — General questions of the Law for the Protection of Blood; Section 20 — Specific questions on the Law for the Protection of Blood.

(GERMAN REPORT first drew attention to Dr Globke's part in the massacre of the Jews on October 30th 1953. Since then we have published many articles giving documentary evidence of his career of crime. Free copies of some of the back numbers containing these articles can be sent to any reader interested.)

Frank Words on W. German TV

Every Sunday, the West German TV network presents viewers with a round-table discussion between foreign journalists stationed in West Germany or visiting the country.

Moderator of the round table is Werner Hoefer, former nazi journalist and today Adenauer propagandist, who generally manages to head off any outspoken criticism of the West German establishment.

On June 25th Herr Hoefer found himself faced by a British journalist who spoke his mind so forcibly that it was impossible to "turn him off". This was Sefton Delmer, former Chief Foreign Correspondent of the London "Daily Express", who has followed events in Germany closely for the past 30 years. Here are some of the things which Delmer said:

"I see that you (the West Germans) talk a lot about the injustices which you did to the Jews; but I hear very little about the injuries done to the people of eastern Europe; I find this very regrettable, for it always leads to phoney propaganda against the Oder-Neisse frontier (the German-Polish frontier, ed.). This propaganda awakens the illusion amongst the German people that we, the British, would support a return of the lost territories. I am sure that I can speak for most people in Britain in saying that we would never do any such thing, since we believe that these frontiers could only be changed through war ...

"When we see people waving flags and shouting 'Back to Silesia' and 'Back to East Prussia' then this recalls to an Englishman like me many bad things which we would not like to see again ...

"I understand love of the homeland, but when a West German Minister says that the Sudeten Germans should not become absorbed in the German people, so that they can return one day to the Sudeten area (part of Czechoslovakia, ed.), then I find this dreadful.

"Why are attempts being made to educate children born in West Germany as 'persons expelled from their homelands'? Why are they entered on their birth certificates as expellees? These re-settlers should be allowed to assimilate in the population here: they should not be told all the time that they will be able to return one day to Silesia or East Prussia. I do not believe that there is a single Englishman who dreams of reconquering Ireland or India, for example."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

With the question of West Berlin back on the agenda, it would be well to brace ourselves for a flood of phoney reports of alleged "Red military threats" and so forth. In this connection I would like to present you again with one of my favourite stories about newspaper scares, which I published in this column back in August 1953. Here it is:

A few days ago, when everything was absolutely placid and normal in East Germany, the United Press correspondent in West Berlin thought that a new sensation was needed, so he filed a story about "three divisions of Soviet tanks being ordered out". The Associated Press correspondent, always a quick man with a good rumour, countered with a fine bright lie about "25,000 workers down tools, stage hunger march on Berlin".

Newspaper offices in London and New York started frantically cabling their special correspondents in West Berlin, hauling them out of beds and bars, asking for eyewitness stories.

In the middle of the excitement, so the story goes, the correspondent of the sedate "Times", London, rang the correspondent of an almost equally austere American paper to ask him what was cooking.

"Everything is fine," said the ripe Bostonian voice at the other end of the wire. "The phoney UP tanks have wiped out the phoney AP hunger-marchers, and now we can all go back to bed."

Information Please

On June 25th the West German magazine "Revue" published a reader's letter reporting that "a British scientist named H. D. Schmidt" had done some interesting work on the racial prejudices still persisting in West German schools. The letter quoted some of the findings, but did not state where they had originally been published. I have been unable here to discover any details on this survey or the man who made it, and would be very grateful if any reader can put me on the track of H.D. Schmidt and his report.

All Three

On another page of this issue we describe how Eichmann, in the dock at Jerusalem, has finally put the finger on Dr Hans Globke, Adenauer's State Secretary who played such a sinister part in the nazi plans to liquidate all Jews. By now it should be a matter of public knowledge that Globke was the author of the main legal commentary to the Nuremberg Laws, Hitler's anti-Semitic legislation, as well as having helped to draft the laws themselves. A lawyer friend of mine has drawn my attention to the fact that there were actually three different legal commentaries to the Nuremberg Laws published during the nazi period. These "legal commentaries" were books published by jurists explaining to the judges and prosecuting authorities how these repressive laws should be applied.

The interesting aspect of this is that the authors of all three commentaries, people who made a private profit out of writing anti-Semitic handbooks, all hold responsible positions in the West German state.

Dr Globke is Chancellor Adenauer's personal adviser; the author of the second commentary, Dr Franz Massfelder, is Ministerial Counsellor in the West German Ministry of Justice; and the author of the third commentary, Dr Loesener-Knost, is today President of Brunswick Administrative District.

Defect

It may be a defect in my character, but I have never been able to get interested in the sports page of a newspaper. However, last week I found myself marooned in a playground supervising my small son's sand-building activities with nothing to read except a newspaper I had already read. Since I am a compulsive reader I turned with a sigh to the sports page, the only part I had neglected; and to my surprise found something of interest.

As everyone knows who reads the western press regularly, the German Democratic Republic does not exist; but sports enthusiasts have apparently not noticed. My sports page gave me some details about forthcoming international contests in the GDR during July; and I discovered that an extraordinary array of western sportsmen are going to duck under the Iron Curtain and take part. First of all there is the European Sailing Championship at Warnemuende starting on July 17th: boats and yachtsmen will be there from Denmark, Finland, Holland, Austria, Sweden, West Germany and a number of socialist countries.

The World Championship for Anglers (did you know there was such a thing) will open at Dresden on July 22nd, and men with fishing rods will come from Switzerland, Luxembourg, Italy, and a number of other countries.

On the same date canoeists from the USA, Britain, Belgium, France and a whole string of other western countries will participate in the World Canoe Championship near Dresden.

The longest list of foreign competitors is for the Motorcycle World Championship on the Sachsenring track; here is a full list of entrants: Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Britain, Finland, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Austria, Rhodesia, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, South Africa, Hungary, USA, GDR.

But of course the GDR does not exist.

Nothing Wrong

My favourite crazy quote of the year has nothing directly to do with Germany, but I cannot find it in my heart to omit it. A certain Australian, Dr Fred Schwarz, runs something called the "Christian Anti-Communist Crusade" in the USA. On April 23rd this year the "St Louis Globe-Democrat" published one of his articles, which included the following almost perfect passage of prose:

"An examination of some of the children's literature produced by the Communists induces bewilderment in most loyal Americans, for they can discover nothing wrong with these books. The stories are well told, beautifully illustrated, and do not teach Communism in any way. The trouble with these books is that there is nothing wrong with them."

Apology

An apology is due to about half the subscribers of GERMAN REPORT for the vexatious muddle on page 100 of the last issue: the columns were transposed, and the story about the re-building of Berlin started in column three instead of at the beginning of the page. We managed to catch the mistake after about half the print had come off the press, so if you are lucky you did not have to do a bit of jig-saw before you could read the article.

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